ABSTRACT

A Phase I and II archaeological survey of the project area for the proposed replacement of Bridges Nos. 17 and 18 on Beaver Valley Road, New Castle County, Delaware, identified the remains of three historic cultural resources dating from the early nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. No prehistoric cultural resources were identified. Archival research indicated that two of the structures, a store/post office (A. Chandler/Galbreth Site) and a blacksmith shop (J. Chandler/Highfield Site), were established in the first quarter of the nineteenth century by the Chandler family. The other structure identified, a tenant house (Sauber House Site) dates to this period. The Project Area was locally known as Chandler's Hollow in the nineteenth century and the businesses established by the Chandler brothers served a small milling and farming community. By the first decade of the twentieth century, however, the community had declined sharply due to changes in the regional economy and fluctuations in the flow of Beaver Creek. Documentary research focused on kinship and community interactions and how these influenced land use, employment, and tenancy patterns over time. None of the historic sites were determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and no further work is recommended for any of the sites.